Shocomi Flower Comics

Ao no Fuuin

8

Chie Shinohara

The Story so Far...

Ever since the day Soko transferred schools, strange things have been happening and a mystery man has been following her around. That man introduces himself as Akira, the "Byakko of the Family of the West" and says it's his duty to kill Soko, who's "Souryu of the Family of the East."

Soko didn't believe she was a man-eating Oni, but she wound up devouring people while being chased by the Family of the West... ! In order to know who she really was, Soko traveled with Akira to Kinase, where she found out several things.

The Family of the West was originally part of the Kimon. The other families were the Family of the South, ruled by "Suzaku", and the Family of the North, ruled by "Genbu". Long ago, when the last chief of the Kimon, Rago, perished, some of her hair was left behind. From that hair a number of Rago clones were resurrected. And the Family of the West, when they mingle with the other families, cause the other one's power to vanish.

When Soko and the others find all this out, the High Priest of the Kimon appears and a violent fight begins. Takao uses Soko's power to make Oni, and the revival of the Kimon starts.

Then Takao revives Rago's younger sister, who tries to kill Soko in order to gain the status of Souryu for herself. But Soko remembers how much she loves her sister, Hiko, and in order to avoid fighting her, she leaves her beloved Akira and goes to Takao.

Soko intended to bring down the Kimon from the inside, but because Takao placed her under his mind control, she wound up increasing the number of Oni. The Family of the West uses all their power and gets Soko back, but Akira winds up being taken prisoner. The Family of the West has decided to exchange Soko for Akira, but she's ordered to sleep with Kai so that her powers as Souryu would vanish. And now, the prisoner exchange...

Characters

Soko Kiryu (Family of the East's "Souryu")

Chief of the man-eating "Kimon", the rebirth of Rago. She loves Akira and wants to live the life of a normal high school girl.

Takao (Family of the North's "Genbu")

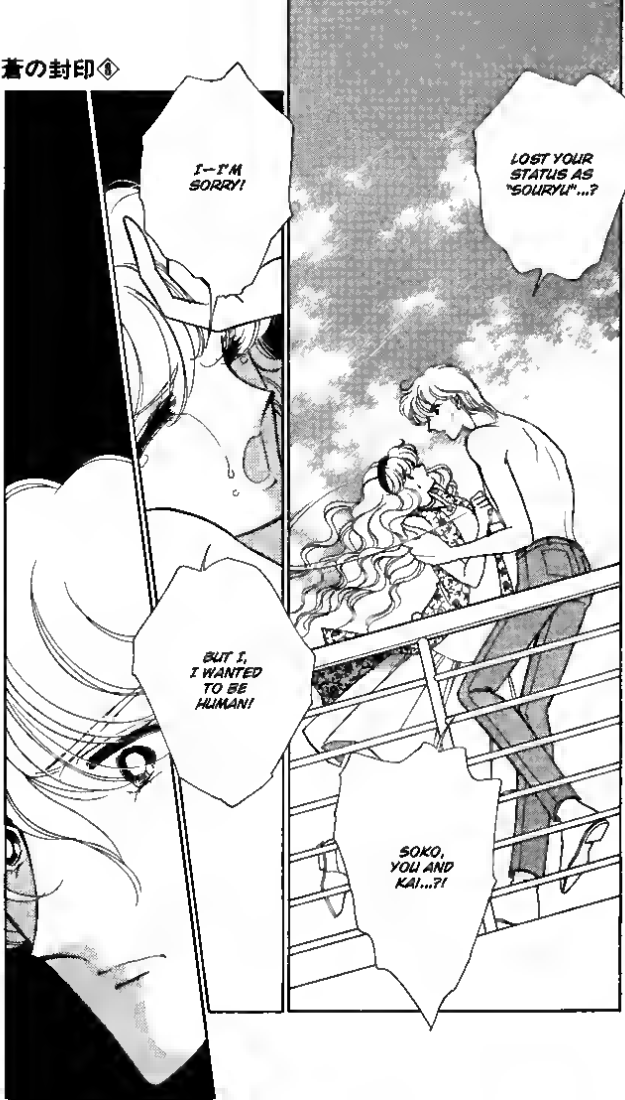
Conspires to use Soko's power to resurrect the Kimon.

Hiko

Soko's younger sister, who Takao cloned. Wants to be Chief of the Kimon.

Akira (Family of the West's "Byakko")

Of the Family of the West, has the greatest power to destroy Oni.


LOST YOUR STATUS AS "SOURYU"...?
SOKO, YOU AND KAI...?!
I--I'M SORRY!
BUT I, I WANTED TO BE HUMAN!

TO MAKE AN ONI'S POWER VANISH, THEY MUST SLEEP WITH ONE OF THE FAMILY OF THE WEST.
KAI AND SOKO...?!
AKIRA, I...

FLARE
TAKAO!
HSOOHM
AH!

FLARE
AHH!
KAI!
TAKAO!
YOU HAVE TO KILL AKIRA FIRST!

FLARE
KAI!
THEY CAN BOTH DIE
UGH...
AKIRA...! STOP IT!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REPEL HIS FLAMES IN YOUR CONDITION!

AHH!
FLARE
SOKO!
YOU DUMMY, YOU'RE POWER-LESS NOW!
AH!
FWISH

RUSTLE
AHH!

FLARE
BOOM

SO KAI WASN'T ENOUGH?
SOKO.
YOU STILL HAVE YOUR POWER.
STILL HAVE MY POWERS ...?!
I
AKIRA,
LET'S GET HER OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE CAN CONTROL HER AGAIN!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
QUICK! THE BRIDGE IS GOING TO FALL!
KAI!
!!
EH?!

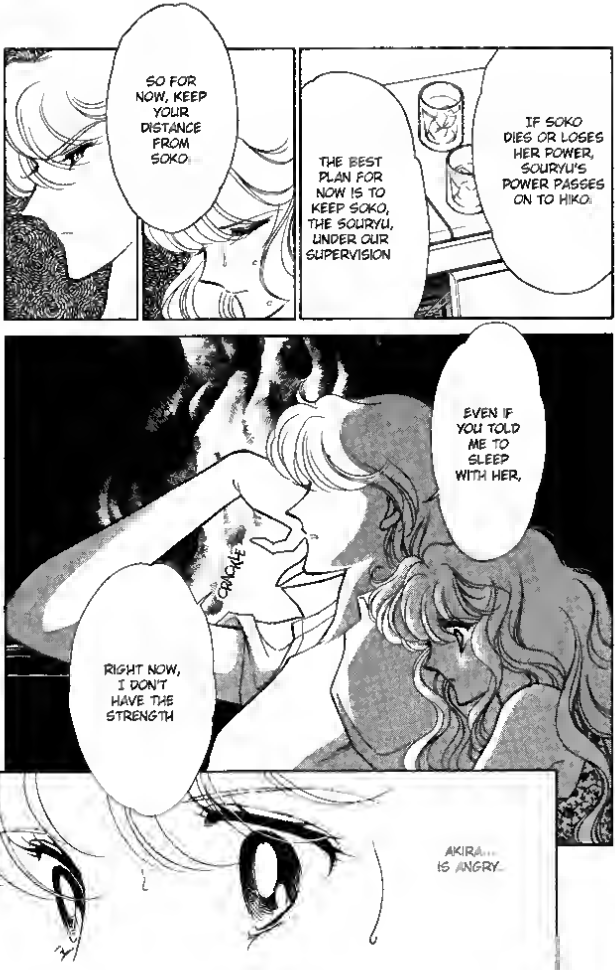
BOOM

!!
SPLASH
QUICK, GET IN!
THIS WAS OUR UNCLE'S DOING?!

TAKAO, WHAT ABOUT MY SISTER?
SHIKE
WE'LL GET HER BACK. I SWEAR IT!
GEEZ, WHAT A MESS.
SPLASH
VROOOOM
SOKO IS THE KIMON'S CHIEF.
DID THEY THINK THE EMBRACE OF THE MERE THIRD SON OF THE FAMILY OF THE WEST COULD TURN HER HUMAN?!
GRIND

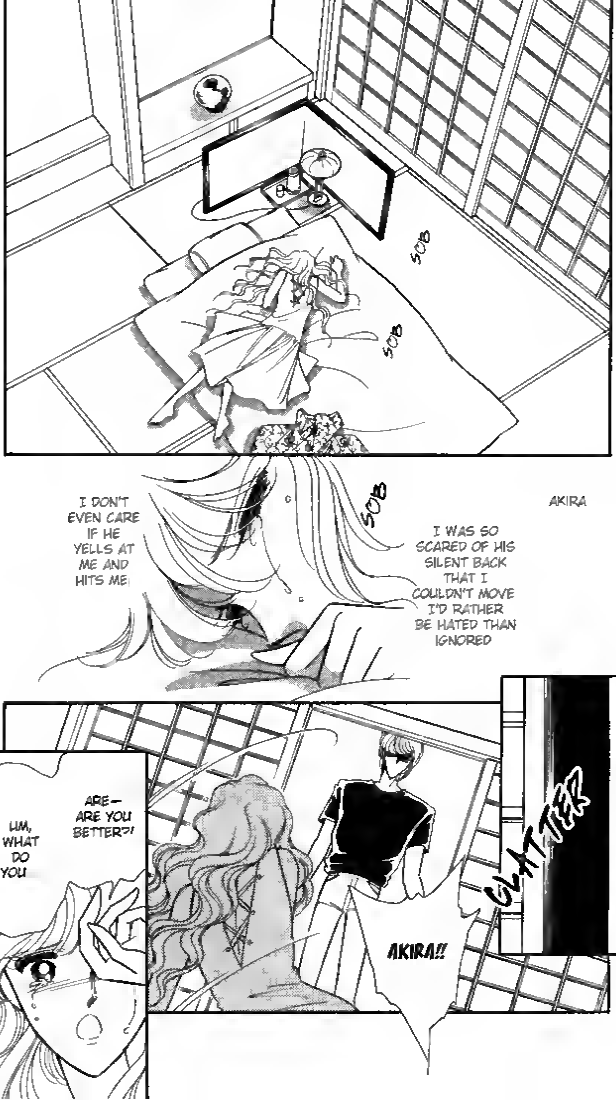
IT SEEMS YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO TAKE HER POWER...
KNT
WERE YOU REALLY UNHAPPY WITH THE TASK, KAI?
YEAH
IF I WON'T WORK, GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE IT TO AKIRA
PLEASE STOP TALKING ABOUT THIS!
I CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT AKIRA'S FACE...
SHE RESISTED TAKAO'S CONTROL JUST FINE, EVEN AS "SOURYU"!
THAT'S RIGHT? HOW CAN THAT BE?

Silver Hypnosis
THAT WAS JUST A SUGGESTION.
IT WAS A LAST RESORT IN CASE I COULDN'T TURN SOKO HUMAN.
SHOCK.
SOKO, YOU WON'T GIVE IN TO TAKAO'S MIND CONTROL.
UNDERSTAND? YOU WON'T GIVE IN.
BUT THAT WON'T WORK TWICE.
IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS MIND CONTROL.
IT PASSED FOR THE REAL THING BECAUSE HE WAS MOMENTARILY SHOCKED.
WELL, NOW THAT AKIRA'S SAFELY BACK WITH US,
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT SOKO IS STILL "SOURYU".
EH?


IF SOKO DIES OR LOSES HER POWER, SOURYU'S POWER PASSES ON TO HIKO.
THE BEST PLAN FOR NOW IS TO KEEP SOKO, THE SOURYU, UNDER OUR SUPERVISION
SO FOR NOW, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM SOKO.
EVEN IF YOU TOLD ME TO SLEEP WITH HER,
CRACKLE
RIGHT NOW, I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH
AKIRA... IS ANGRY.

.....
YOU SHOULD STAY THERE FOR NOW
A ROOM WILL BE PREPARED IN THE MANSION GUEST HOUSE FOR YOU, SOKO
EVEN THOUGH I SAID I LOVE AKIRA, I SLEPT WITH KA!
OF COURSE HE'S ANGRY, IGNORING ME JUST BREAKS MY HEART.
PLEASE! SAY SOMETHING!

SAIONJI
SHOCK
BUT SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE BEAUTIFUL I JUST WANT A QUICK PEEK...
CAN'T BE HELPED, SHE'S "SOURYU".
CALL HER A GUEST ALL YOU WANT BUT THIS IS CONFINEMENT.
MR. AKIRA!
I HAVE BUSINESS INSIDE OPEN IT


SOB
SOB
SOB
I DON'T EVEN CARE IF HE YELLS AT ME AND HITS ME!
AKIRA
I WAS SO SCARED OF HIS SILENT BACK THAT I COULDN'T MOVE I'D RATHER BE HATED THAN IGNORED
CLATTER
AKIRA!!
ARE— ARE YOU BETTER?!
UM, WHAT DO YOU

CLATTER
SHIVER
GRAB
I DON'T EVEN CARE...
IF HE YELLS AT ME AND HITS ME...

AKI...
?!

I'M SORRY, SOKO
I HATE THAT I DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER TO PROTECT YOU!
IF I HAD THE POWER TO CRUSH THE KIMON, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO TURN TO KAI!
I'M SORRY!
AKIRA...

AKIRA, YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME?
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
I... I CAN'T EVEN REALLY REMEMBER IT...
MY HEAD'S JUST FILLED WITH WHITE NOISE
I'M ANGRY AT MYSELF AND THE FAMILY OF THE WEST.
IT'S OKAY. JUST FORGET ABOUT KAI
NO, YOU NEVER NEED TO REMEMBER IT...
SHE WON'T REMEMBER IT, 'CAUSE IT NEVER HAPPENED
KAI!!
YOU THINK I COULD SLEEP WITH A CRYING GIRL WHO ONLY CALLS OUT YOUR NAME?!

If I were going to kill someone, it'd be you!
You looked like you were going to kill her, so I got worried
THE "SORRY, SOKO" PART.
HOW LONG WERE YOU STANDING THERE?!
DID HE SAY IT NEVER HAPPENED?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN...
KAI...
YEAH,
I NEVER SLEPT WITH YOU

ALL I DID WAS PLACE THAT SUGGESTION IN YOUR MIND...
AKIRA!!
AKIRA
I DIDN'T SLEEP WITH YOU BACK THEN
SOKO...
BE WITH AKIRA
THEN I CAN GO BACK TO AKIRA...?!
THEN...
HOW THOUGHT-LESS OF YOU!
YOU JERK!
IF OUR UNCLE FOUND OUT, THEN EVERY LITTLE THING I DO WOULD TURN INTO A TEST!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER?!

IN AKIRA'S ARMS! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE BACK HERE!
NOW WE'RE JUST BACK TO WHERE WE WERE THREE MONTHS AGO
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT OUR PROBLEMS HAVEN'T BEEN SOLVED AT ALL

THERE'S A WAY!
THIS TIME WE'LL DESTROY THE KIMON!
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS CAPTURED.
I KNOW THERE'S A WAY
WE'LL FIND IT!
AKIRA! What do you mean?!
A WAY ...?!
WHAT IS IT?!
THERE HAS TO BE A REASON IF WE CAN FIND IT, WE CAN DESTROY THE KIMON!
AND WHATEVER DESTROYED THEM IS SOMETHING HUMANS SURVIVED
LISTEN, THEY WERE ALL DESTROYED ONCE,

SURE
SURE, THAT MIGHT BE IT. A WAY TO DESTROY THE KIMON...?
A REASON THE KIMON WERE DESTROYED...?!
YEAH. WE HAVE TO TRY TO FIND IT!
...!!
WOBBLE
AKIRA?!
I'M OKAY. I'M JUST TIRED.
NO! YOU'RE NOT WELL YET! YOU HAVE TO REST MORE!
YEAH SAVE THE TREASURE HUNT FOR TOMORROW GET TO BED

TAP
TAP
TAP

TAKAO!
WE HAVE THE SAIONJI COMPLEX COMPLETELY SURROUNDED.
GOOD.

AKIRA, THE BYAKKO, SHOULDN'T HAVE FULLY RECOVERED YET.
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOURYU,
DEVOUR EVERY LAST HUMAN WITHIN THE COMPLEX!

DEVOUR EVERY LAST ONE!

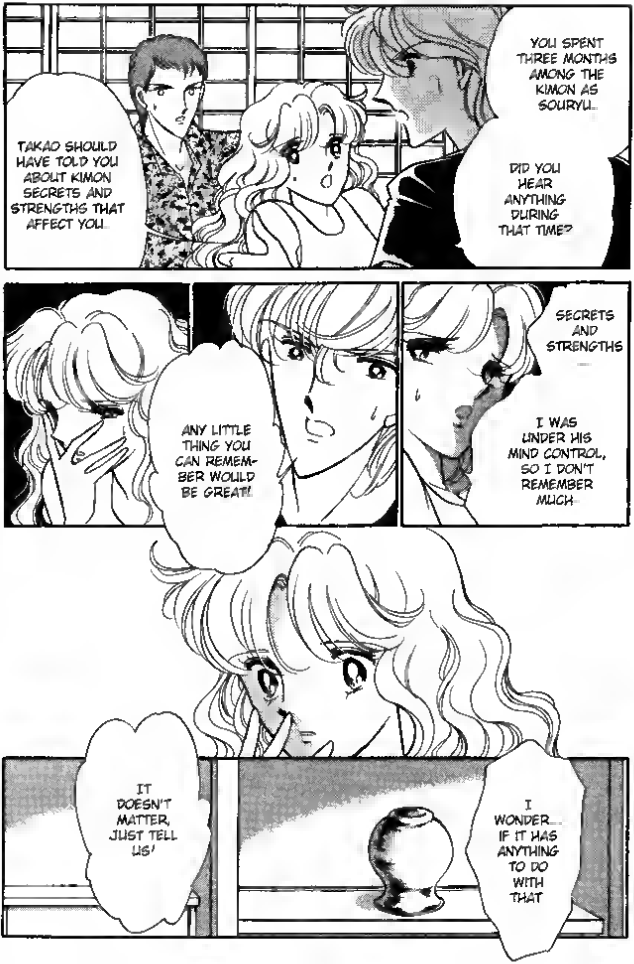
HIKO, YOU GO AROUND TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE.
GOT IT.
JUMP

YOU GUYS DO AS YOU LIKE WITH THE WEAKLINGS!
YES!
BUT IF YOU FIND ONE OF THE DIRECT FAMILY MEMBERS, LET ME KNOW.
ESPECIALLY AKIRA. — AND KAI! GOT IT?
BEEP
BEEP

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
TRIGGER THE ALARM!
INVADERS IN THE COMPLEX?!
WHAT'S WITH THE READING... 50, NO, 60 OF THEM?!
I'LL WAKE EVERYONE WHO'S NOT ON SHIFT!
CLACK
THIS IS NO TIME FOR...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THE... KIMON...

A WAY TO DESTROY THE KIMON...
HOW EXACTLY ARE WE GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT?
WELL
FOR NOW, WE'LL HAVE TO RELY ON SOKO
ME...?!
HOW AM I GOING TO DO IT?!


YOU SPENT THREE MONTHS AMONG THE KIMON AS SOURYU...
DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING DURING THAT TIME?
TAKAO SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT KIMON SECRETS AND STRENGTHS THAT AFFECT YOU...
SECRETS AND STRENGTHS
I WAS UNDER HIS MIND CONTROL, SO I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH...
ANY LITTLE THING YOU CAN REMEMBER WOULD BE GREAT!
I WONDER... IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT
IT DOESN'T MATTER, JUST TELL US!

"SOKO,"
"REMEMBER THIS,"
I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE OR WHEN.
BUT I KNOW TAKAO AND THIS
"IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, THERE'S SOMETHING WE MUST PROTECT."
"THE KIMON ARE REVIVED, AND THIS TIME WE MUST LIVE ON."

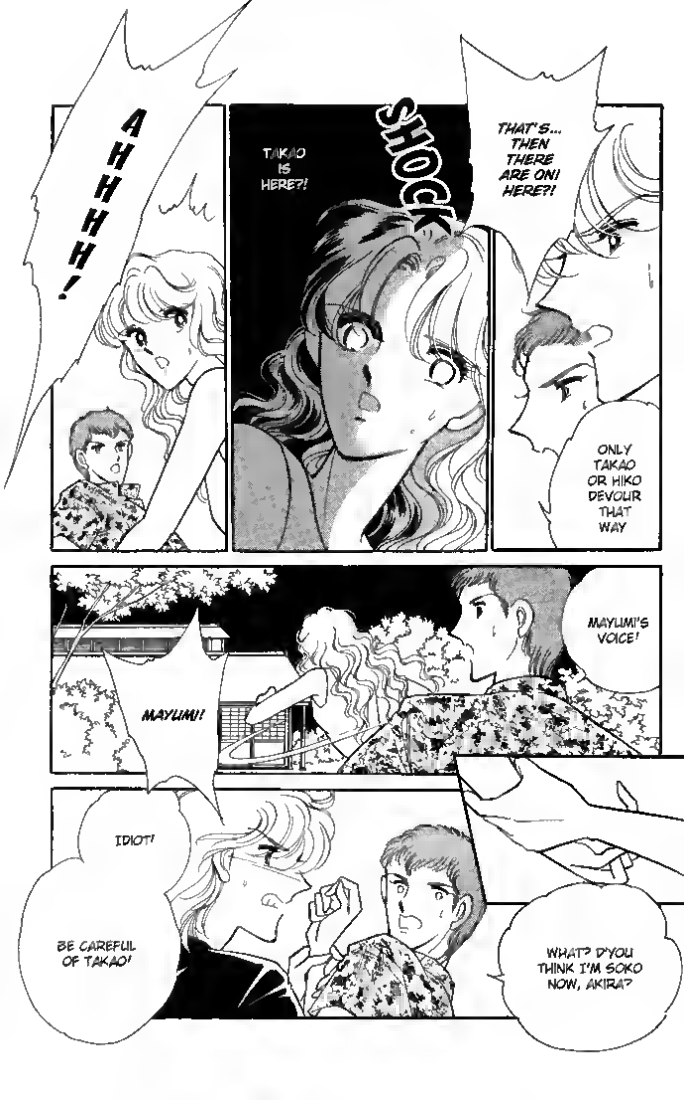
"FOR THE KIMON TO PROSPER, YOU MUST USE YOUR ALMIGHTY POWER..."
"AND PROTECT AS OUR CHIEF."

C'MON, REMEMBER!
HEY!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
THAT
I DON'T REMEMBER.
PROTECT WHAT?
EVEN IF YOU WANT ME TO, I CAN'T
WHAT IS IT, SOKO?
SHOCK

I SMELL BLOOD!
THERE'S A LOT OF BLOOD BEING SHED IN THE COMPLEX!
WHAT?!
MR. AKIRA, SOURYU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE!
FORGET THAT! MOVE ASIDE!
CLATTER
UGH...

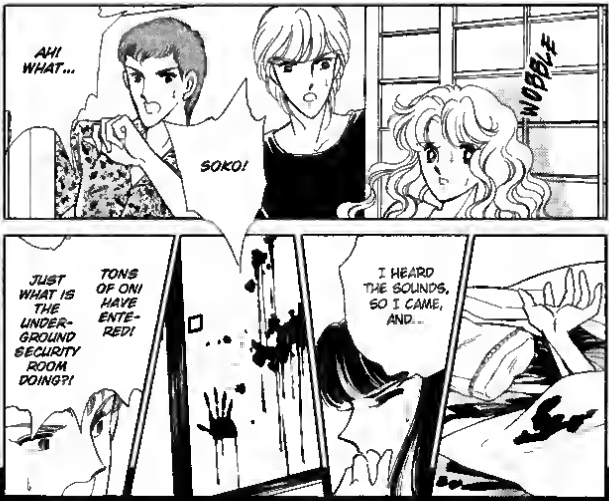
THE GARDEN IS SOAKED WITH THE SCENT OF BLOOD!
WHAT COULD IT BE FROM?!
MR. AKIRA, WHAT HAPPENED?
SOKO?
RUSTLE
AH!

AKIRA, LOOK AT THIS!
AHHHH!


AHHHH!
SHOCK
TAKAO IS HERE?!
THAT'S... THEN THERE ARE ON! HERE?!
ONLY TAKAO OR HIKO DEVOUR THAT WAY
MAYUMI'S VOICE!
MAYUMI!
IDIOT!
BE CAREFUL OF TAKAO!
WHAT? D'YOU THINK I'M SOKO NOW, AKIRA?

TAKAO LOVES SOKO.
WHAT...?
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE HIDES IT, BUT I'M SURE OF IT.
EVERYONE STILL THINKS YOU SLEPT WITH SOKO
IF TAKAO GET HIS HANDS ON YOU, HE'LL KILL YOU SLOWLY.
He'd just kill me right away.
TAKE MY ADVICE
AND BE CAREFUL!
PAT
GULP

MAYUMI!!
W-WHAT...
MAYUMI, ARE YOU OKAY?
!!
HOW TERRIBLE
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITHOUT HAVING TO BE TOLD.
THEY WERE EATEN BY ONI.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE


AH! WHAT...
SOKO!
WOBBLE
I HEARD THE SOUNDS, SO I CAME, AND...
TONS OF ON! HAVE ENTE-RED!
JUST WHAT IS THE UNDER-GROUND SECURITY ROOM DOING?!
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND FIND A WAY
WE HAVE TO DESTROY THE ON! QUICKLY.

PLEASE, SOKO! IF WE CAN GET THAT, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DESTORY THE KIMON!
I — I'M THINKING, BUT...
SOKO, CAN YOU REMEMBER?
WHAT DID TAKAO SAY YOU HAD TO PROTECT?!
R
I
P
!!

AHH!
SFX GRAB
!!
KAI!

UGH...
FUMP
AKIRA!
GO TELL TAKAO!
IT'S THE BYAK-KO!
DOES TAKAO PLAN ON KILLING EVERYONE IN THE MANSION?!
HE WANTS TO DESTROY THE FAMILY OF THE WEST!
STOP...
CLACK
NO! I WON'T LET YOU GO FOR TAKAO!

LADY SOKO!
SPLASH
WATER.

"PROTECT
AS OUR
CHIEF."
WHAT TAKAO SAID AFTER THE RITUAL THAT CROWNED ME "SOURYU"...
IN A PLACE WITH WARM EARTH AND PURE WATER
...

I
REMEMBER

"PROTECT THIS REFUGE, AS OUR CHIEF."
BUT IS THERE SOMETHING THERE?!
A REFUGE THAT THE KIMON PROTECTED
AN ONI REFUGE!
SOKO,
THIS WAY!
AKIRA, I REMEMBER!
TAKAO TOLD ME TO PROTECT THE ONI REFUGE!
REFUGE?!

YEAH, A PLACE FOR ONI.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT.
I SEE... THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO THERE AND FIND OUT, WON'T WE?
GO THERE...?
HIKO!
SOKO, THIS WAY!
FOUND YOU, SIS!
RUSTLE

THE SAME WITH US
UNCLE!
CLACK
YOU'RE OKAY, AKIRA?
THEY ATTACKED WHILE WE WERE ASLEEP, AND MOST OF OUR MEN ARE DEAD
TAKAO!
WE'VE CORNERED AKIRA AND THE OTHERS IN THE TEAROOM.
SHINOBU AS WELL
SOKO'S THERE TOO!

THEN THE LAST SURVIVORS ARE INSIDE?

THE FAMILY OF THE WEST IS UNEXPECTEDLY LACKING
HMPH,

AKIRA,
TAKAO'S HERE.
WE'RE SURROUNDED.
AND HERE WE'D FINALLY GOTTEN A HINT ABOUT HOW TO DESTROY THE KIMON...!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL SNEAK OUT OF THE MANSION
WE CAN HEAD FOR THE ONI REFUGE
AKIRA!
HOW DOES HE PLAN ON GETTING OUT OF THIS MESS?!

IF THE ONI ATTACK NOW, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DEFEND WITH JUST THIS MANY MEN!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, AKIRA?!
SMILE

WE HAVE IT COMPLETELY SURROUNDED?
YES SIR!
DON'T LET ANYONE ESCAPE!
ALRIGHT, TEAR IT APART!
SOKO, NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO TO YOU, YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUR "SOURYU!"
CRASH

THEY'RE GONE!
IMPOSSIBLE! I KNOW THEY WERE IN HERE!
THEY HAD AN ESCAPE ROUTE!
LOOK FOR IT! IT HAS TO BE HERE SOME-WHERE!

LOOK FOR A SWITCH!
WE AREN'T DEALING WITH NINJA!
TWIP
ESCAPE ROUTE?
FOUND IT!
CLICK

SWISH
DAMN FAMILY OF THE WEST...
I'LL FOLLOW THEM.
YOU GUYS CIRCLE THE GARDEN.
THIS HAS TO COME OUT SOMEWHERE! CAPTURE THEM WHEN THEY COME OUT!
LET'S GO!

LOOK OVER THERE!
FIND THEM, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO TURN OVER EVERY ROCK!
START SEARCHING, ESPECIALLY FOR THE DIRECT FAMILY!
PUMP
KYUN

RUSTLE

WE CAN GET OUT FROM HERE...?
TUNNELS RUN ALL THROUGH THE COMPLEX.
LIKE THE CAVES AT KINASA, THEY'RE A MAZE IF YOU DON'T KNOW THEM
THERE ARE TUNNELS THAT RUN BEYOND THE COMPLEX, TOO
WE'RE HEADING FOR THE CLOSEST ONE
MASAKI! I LEAVE SOKO AND MAYUMI TO YOU USE THIS!
YES, SIR!
SHINK
KACHINK
AKIRA, I
SOKO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT.
I'LL TAKE THE LEAD!
AKIRA!

IT'S THE BYAKKO!
GRAB
AHHH!
HURRY THIS WAY!
NOW WE GET A LITTLE REVENGE!

RUSTLE
AKIRA DIDN'T TELL ME...
RUSTLE

HE DIDN'T TELL ME TO HELP FIGHT THE ONI!
IT'S BECAUSE HE KNOWS I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT MY SISTER.

BUT I WAS SO NAIVE AND WOUND UP REVIVING THE ONI
MY WEAKNESS IS WHAT CAUSED ALL THIS.
TAKAO, YOU'RE YOUR OWN RUIN!
SOKO, QUICK, THIS WAY!
!!
EVEN IF IT'S DOWN TO JUST ME ALONE, I'LL ERADICATE THE KIMON!

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
KILL THE BYAKKO AND BRING SOURYU TO ME!
SLAM

SFX: CRASH
I CAN'T BE THIS WEAK ANYMORE!

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ESCAPED.
WE CAN'T FIND ANOTHER ENTRANCE.
KEEP LOOKING!
TRACK DOWN THEIR OTHER HOLDINGS!
TAKAO, IF WE'RE THAT BOLD, PEOPLE WILL FIND OUT ABOUT US!
IT DOESN'T MATTER. ALL THE HUMANS THAT COULD OPPOSE US WERE GATHERED HERE.
IT'S [illegible] TIME WE ANNOUNCE OUR REBIRTH!

IS MR AKIRA SAFE?!
WHAT ABOUT THE COMPANY?! OR THOSE AT SAIONJI PALACE ...
DO YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE PERPETRATORS ARE?!

WITH ALL THE CONFUSION LAST NIGHT, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO CONTROL THE MEDIA
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVEN'T FOUND OUT ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ONI, BUT...
A BUNCH OF REPORTERS HAVE SHOWED UP AND IT'S A TOTAL MESS DOWN THERE.

WE'LL LEAVE THIS TO MY UNCLE, AND HEAD TO THEIR REFUGE

WE CAN'T LET TAKAO KEEP DOING WHATEVER HE WANTS.

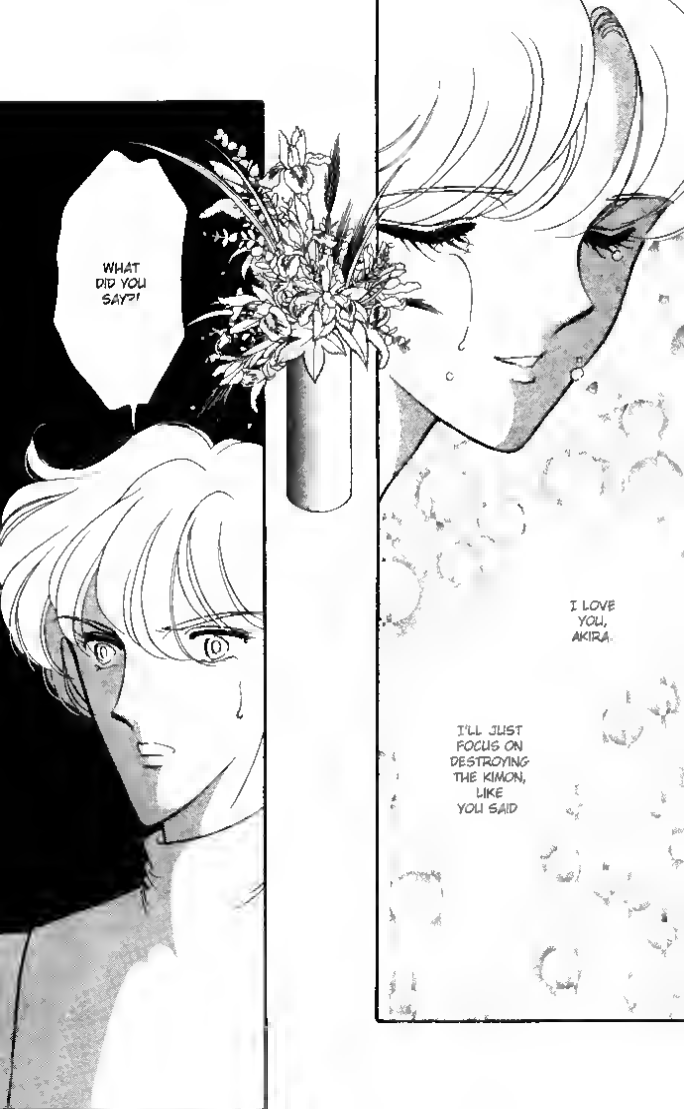
THE KIMON

WE HAVE TO DESTROY THE KIMON
I WILL KILL HIKO
SOKO
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO SAY THIS NOW, BUT... IF WE HAVE TO FACE HIKO, I'LL FIGHT HER.
CRUNCH
IF I'D HARDENED MY RESOLVE SOONER, THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO THIS
I'M SORRY

THE TRUTH IS... I WAS SCARED I'D BE ALL ALONE.
I'M SORRY.
IF I'M SEPARATED FROM HER, I'LL BE ALL ALONE IN THIS WORLD... THAT'S WHAT I WAS SCARED OF.
I'M HERE.
I'LL NEVER LET YOU BE ALONE
AKIRA.

RUSTLE
AKIRA...

AN RV'S BEING PREPARED RIGHT NOW.
RV?
YEAH. THE REFUGE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF MOUNTAINS, RIGHT?
WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS EVERY-THING'S TOGETHER.
KNOCK
KNOCK
AKIRA, THE RV'S READY
CLACK
BUT OUR UNCLE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU BEFORE WE GO.
The reporters are swarming and you two pull a love scene in the window
LISTEN, SOKO. JUST FOCUS ON DESTROYING THE KIMON
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
GOT IT, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.


WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I LOVE YOU, AKIRA.
I'LL JUST FOCUS ON DESTROYING THE KIMON, LIKE YOU SAID

IF YOU HEAD TO THE REFUGE AND FIND THE ANSWER TO HOW TO DESTROY THE ONI THERE, THIS ISN'T AN ISSUE
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU LOST YOUR HEARING, OR IF YOU'RE JUST PRETENDING NOT TO HEAR, BUT I'LL SAY IT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT
BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DIE BEFORE YOU DISCOVER IT?
IT'S YOUR DUTY TO SECURE A BYAKKO FOR THE NEXT GENERATION
IN OTHER WORDS WE NEED TO SECURE YOUR CHILD

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MARRIAGE.
UNCLE, I'M NOT EVEN MARRIED YET...
KAI'S GOING WITH YOU TO THEIR REFUGE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE ONE MORE COMPANION.
YOUR PARTNER.
MAYUMI?!
UNCLE!!
LONG AGO IT WAS ACCEPTABLE FOR SIBLINGS WITH DIFFERENT MOTHERS TO WED.
IT STRENGTHENS THE BLOOD, AND PRODUCES CHILDREN WITH GREAT POWER
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! SHE'S MY SISTER!

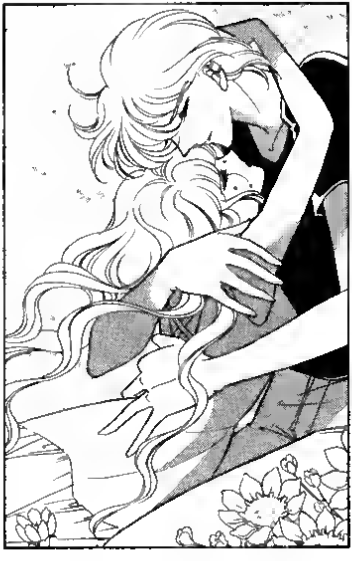
WE'VE TOLERATED YOU KEEPING SOURYU AT YOUR SIDE AS YOUR LOVER.
AND NOW YOU NEED TO FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY OF THE WEST
THAT WON'T MATTER IF I DESTROY THE KIMON SOON, RIGHT?!
WHEN I DO THAT THERE WON'T BE A NEED FOR THE NEXT BYAKKO!
SLAM
OUR CONFLICT WITH THE KIMON WILL END WITH MY GENERATION!

AKIRA!
THE RV'S GREAT! WE WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS REACHING THE REFUGE WITH IT...
B.B.B.1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
MAYUMI?
MY UNCLE DECIDED THAT MAYUMI SHOULD COME WITH US

...?
YOU TOO.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
OH, AKIRA, I REMEMBER WHERE THE REFUGE IS
IT WAS TO THE NORTH WHEN WE GET CLOSER, I THINK I'LL REMEMBER MORE
THAT'S GREAT. KAI, YOU DRIVE.
!?
GRAB
IT'S NOTHING, HE SAYS... THEN WHY DOES HE LOOK LIKE THAT?
AKIRA, DID YOUR UNCLE HAVE TROUBLING NEWS?
IT'S NOTHING, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

AKIRA
...!!

AKIRA, JUST WHAT HAPPENED!?
WE'LL DEFINITELY FIND THE ANSWER AT THE REFUGE!
THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE KUMON SOON!



FLOWER COMICS

蒼の封印 8

Chie Shinohara

篠原千絵

少コミ フラワーコミックス

フラワーコミックス

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雑誌 45153－28　小学館

●作品紹介

高雅のスキをつき、無事彬の救出に成功した蒼子達。しかしその夜、西園寺家は怒りに燃えた高雅率いる鬼達の襲撃を受ける。西家全滅の危機に、蒼子達は…!?

少コミ フラワーコミックス

Ao no Fuuin

"Blue Seal"

by: Chie Shinohara

SCANNER: LADYNAGISA
TRANSLATOR: KALENDEL
EDITOR: LADYNAGISA
QC: KALENDEL

STORM IN HEAVEN

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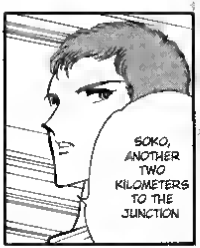
AKIRA'S UPSET
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED...
MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH MAYUMI ACCOMPANYING US
SOKO

AKIRA...?

SOKO
OH!
AH!
WHAT IS IT KAI?
WE'VE BEEN HEADING NORTH LIKE YOU SAID, AND WE'VE ALREADY HIT AKITA
WHICH WAY DO WE GO AT THE JUNCTION COMING UP?
DON'T SPACE OUT LIKE THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE WAY TO THE REFUGE
S... SORRY
THAT'S RIGHT I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON FINDING THE REFUGE NOW


SOKO, ANOTHER TWO KILOMETERS TO THE JUNCTION

AH—! WAIT!
WOOSH

MAYBE AS IMPORTANT AS THE SURVIVAL OF THE KIMON—
THAT'S WHY I NEED TO KNOW THE SECRET!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO DESTROY THE KIMON!
THE ONE REFUGE—
THE PLACE WHERE I WAS CROWNED "SOURYU" AND TAKAO TOLD ME TO PROTECT MUST BE IMPORTANT
HOOSH

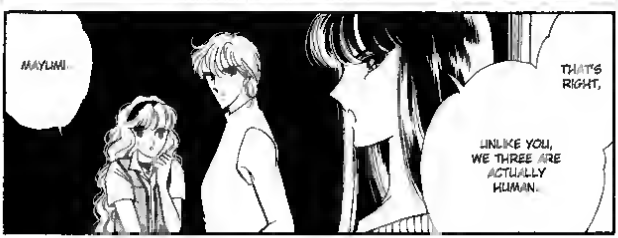
LEFT!
HEAD TOWARDS THE TALLEST PEAK OF THAT MOUNTAIN!
SO YOU'RE REMEMBERING MORE AS WE GO?
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS ROUTE?
I DON'T KNOW THE ROUTE
I CAN JUST FEEL THE WAY

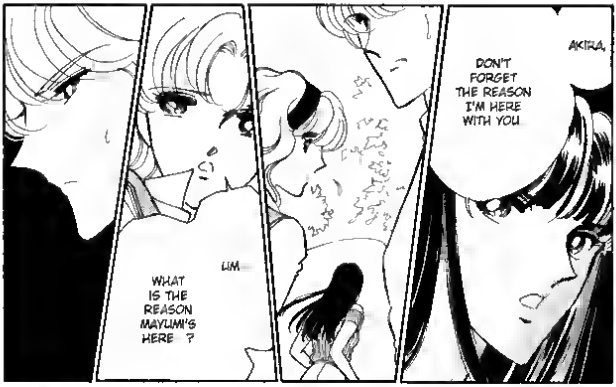
THE AIR SMELLS DIFFERENT.
I BET THE SOURCE IS WHERE WE'RE HEADED... THE REFUGE
THERE'S A STREAM OF PURE AIR FLOWING THROUGH THE BREEZE
I CAN TELL WHERE IT'S COMING FROM
Hamura 115km
Tawada 49km
Ashiro Jct 2km

It'd help if you'd shut up.
AKIRA, WATCH YOUR DRIVING!
I'M SURE OF IT... WE'RE DEFINITELY GETTING CLOSE TO THE REFUGE.
THE AIR'S GROWN PURE AND THICK...
SO THE ONI REFUGE IS IN TOUHOKU?
I GUESS THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN OBVIOUS.
SOKO!
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT ROAD?! IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE WE GOT OFF THE HIGHWAY!

LIKE THE ALIEN CLAY FIGURE, AND THE MOUNTAIN THEY CALL A PYRAMID, AND
THAT'S RIGHT, THE STONE CIRCLE'S CLOSE TO HERE.
THERE ARE LOTS OF STRANGE THINGS IN TOUHOKU
OBVIOUS ?
STONE CIRCLE?
THEY SAY IT'S FROM THE JOMON PERIOD. BUT THEY CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT MADE IT.
YES ANCIENT STONES ARRANGED IN A CIRCLE
That's why I said to quit yelling
BOING
AKIRA,
EXPLAIN ALL YOU WANT, BUT WATCH YOUR DRIVING!

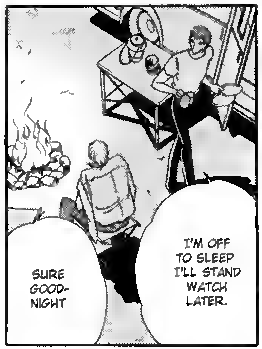
IT'S BETTER NOT TO MOVE AROUND AT NIGHT IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE AREA.
SOME ON! HAVE PROBABLY RETURNED TO THE REFUGE
WE HAVE TO USE EVERY SCRAP OF TIME WE HAVE!
AKIRA, WE CAN KEEP MOVING IT'S VAGUE BUT I KNOW THE DIRECTION.
WE'LL STOP HERE FOR TODAY AND START WALKING TOMORROW.
WE CAN'T TAKE THE CAR ANY FURTHER.
CLACK

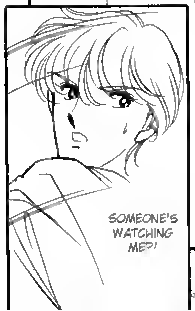

MAYUMI.
THAT'S RIGHT,
UNLIKE YOU, WE THREE ARE ACTUALLY HUMAN.


AKIRA,
DON'T FORGET THE REASON I'M HERE WITH YOU
LIM
WHAT IS THE REASON MAYUMI'S HERE ?

SOKO, DO YOU TRUST ME?
?!
OF COURSE, I DO

THEN PLEASE DON'T BRING THIS UP AGAIN.
IT'S NOT ANYTHING THAT'D HURT YOU





THE ONE I DON'T TRUST IS MYSELF...

I TRUST YOU, AKIRA

I'M AN ONI I'M NOT RIGHT FOR HIM.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME UNEASY...

DID I IMAGINE IT...?

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
THIS IS THE PLACE!
THE ONI REFUGE?
THIS IS WHERE THE RITUAL WAS!

IT CERTAINLY IS PRETTY
BUT WHAT'S HERE, EXACTLY?
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
YEAH, NO MATTER HOW PRETTY IT IS,
I CAN'T SEE HOW THIS PLACE IS CONNECTED TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE KIMON
!!
THE AIR IS THICKER OVER THERE
AMAZING— IT'S A MEADOW

OWW!
DUH
FUMP
BUT...
THIS PLACE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S EVER BEEN TOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS
KAI!
HERE TOO
THERE'S ONE HERE TOO
WHY'S THERE THIS ROCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS PLACE?
HUH?
THIS...
ISN'T A NATURAL FORMATION...

HEY, LET'S LOOK AROUND
AND UNCOVER ALL THE ROCKS.
IT LOOKS LIKE A STONE CIRCLE.
THEN ARE THESE JOMON RUINS?
I DON'T KNOW
THIS ISN'T A CIRCLE
IT'S GOT EDGES
IT'S TOO BIG. I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT IT IS
TRY LOOKING AT IT FROM A DISTANCE
THIS WAY

A STAR?!
FIVE POINTS! IT'S A WESTERN PENTA-GRAM!
IT'S A CREST THAT SYMBOLIZES THE FIVE ELEMENTS
THE KIMON SEAL ALSO HAS FIVE ELEMENTS
THE FIVE ELEMENTS
LOOK! THERE'S A HOLE IN THE CENTER OF THE PENTA-GRAM!

WHAT IS THIS...?!
IN THE REFUGE, THESE STONES ARE WHERE THE AIR IS THICKEST...
!!

GULP
THE HEART...
IT SEEMS WE'VE FOUND THE HEART OF THE REFUGE
IT LOOKS LIKE A DEEP NATURAL CAVE.
BE CAREFUL.

THERE ARE LOTS OF OFFSHOOTS... DON'T WANDER OFF...
IT'S LIKE THE TUNNELS UNDER KINASA
I KNEW THE REFUGE COULDN'T HAVE JUST BEEN THAT
WHATEVER WE FIND HERE MUST BE IMPORTANT
ぐいっ

SLAM
AHHHH!
ANY HUMANS WHO ENTER WILL BE EATEN!
THIS IS OUR LAND!
I KNEW THEY'D BE HERE!
ON!!

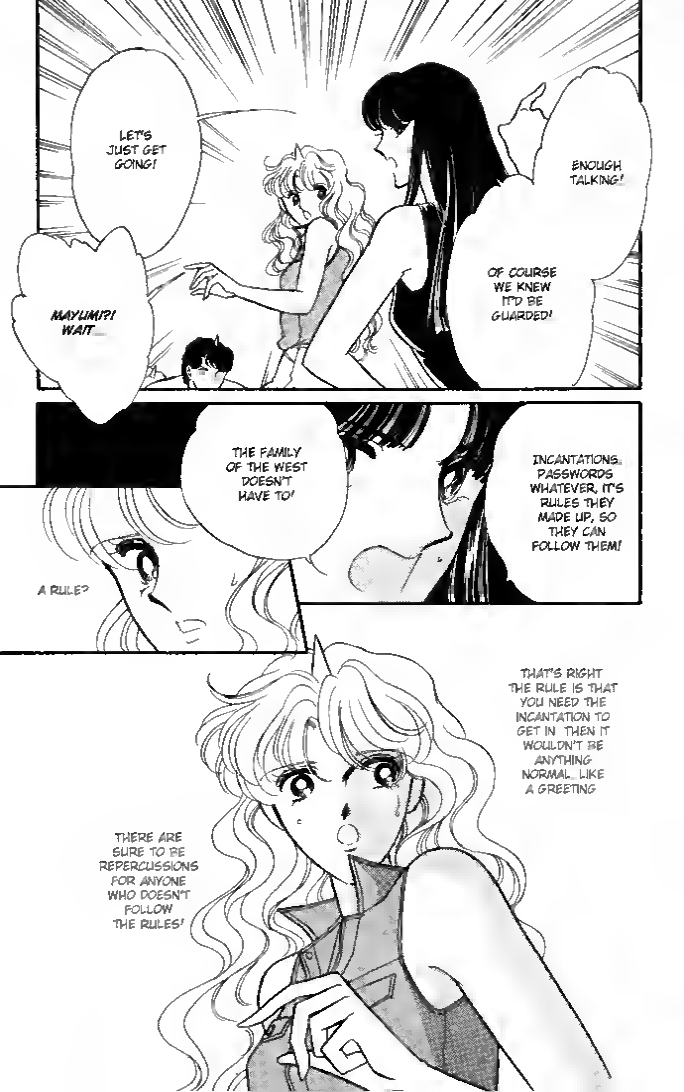
LADY SOKO!
SWIRL
STAND DOWN, ONI!
I'M SOKO, THE "SOURYU" OF THE FAMILY OF THE EAST!
TELL ME!
WHAT IS THE REFUGE?! WHAT'S HERE?!

...WE DON'T KNOW THAT EITHER
L—LADY SOKO, WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
FIRST TELL ME WHAT'S HERE!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D PROTECT THIS PLACE WITHOUT KNOWING WHY!
MAYUMI!
ENTERING HERE IS FORBIDDEN SO WE'VE NEVER KNOWN
WE TRULY DON'T KNOW
WE GUARD THE ENTRANCE TO WHAT MUST BE PROTECTED!
I AGREE! ANSWER ME!

SOMETHING ELSE...?
YES,
SOMETHING ELSE PROTECTS THIS PLACE.
ENTERING IS FORBIDDEN...?
FROM HERE IN...
THE DEMON MASK GUARDS.

WHAT'S THAT?!
DEMON MASK?!
IT'S SAID THAT THE BEAST HAS PROTECTED THE KIMON REFUGE SINCE ANCIENT TIMES
AND IT'LL ONLY OPEN THE DOOR FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN SAY THE INCANTATION
WE HAVEN'T SEEN IT OURSELVES
INCAN-TATION?
SO IT'S LIKE A PASSWORD TO GET IN
DO YOU KNOW IT?
LORD TAKAO PROBABLY DOES

A BEAST THAT PROTECTS THE REFUGE? IF IT'S DEALING WITH INCANTATIONS... THEN IT HAS INTELLIGENCE, AS WELL.
JUST WHAT KIND OF BEAST IS IT?!

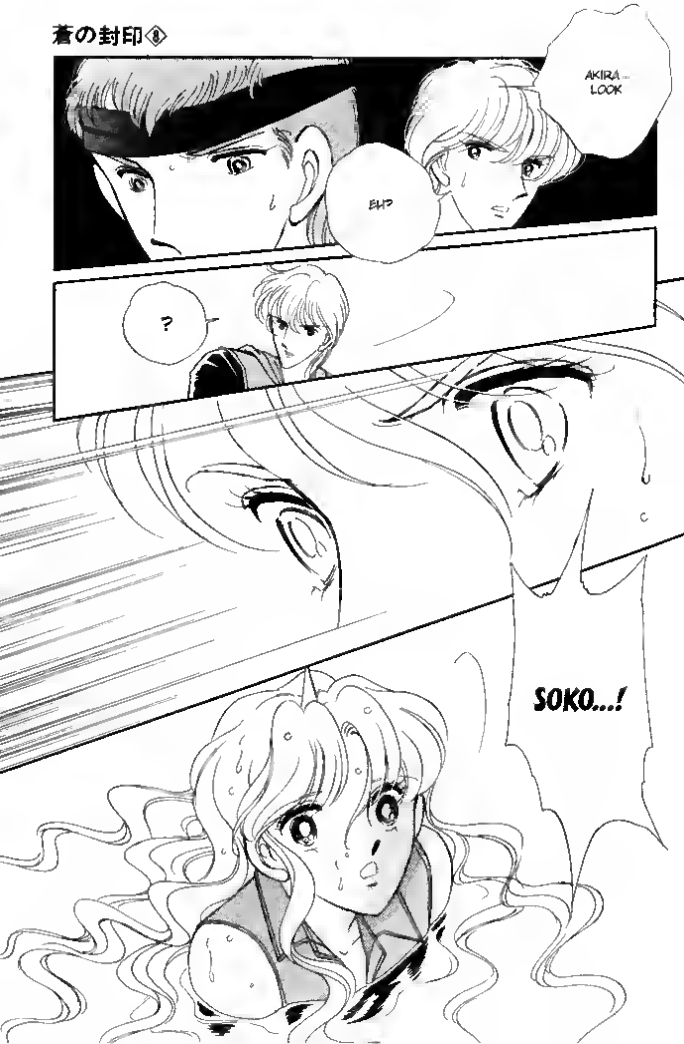

LET'S JUST GET GOING!
ENOUGH TALKING!
OF COURSE WE KNEW IT'D BE GUARDED!
MAYUMI?! WAIT...
INCANTATIONS, PASSWORDS WHATEVER, IT'S RULES THEY MADE UP, SO THEY CAN FOLLOW THEM!
THE FAMILY OF THE WEST DOESN'T HAVE TO!
A RULE?
THAT'S RIGHT THE RULE IS THAT YOU NEED THE INCANTATION TO GET IN. THEN IT WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING NORMAL, LIKE A GREETING
THERE ARE SURE TO BE REPERCUSSIONS FOR ANYONE WHO DOESN'T FOLLOW THE RULES!

SWISH
MAYUMI!
CALTEK
IF THEY WON'T MOVE, I'LL MAKE MY OWN WAY
MAYUMI, WAIT! LET'S FIND OUT MORE-
AH...
SLAM
?!

AN UNDER-GROUND WATER VEIN?!
BE CAREFUL, THE GROUND IS FRAGILE!
SPLASH
AHHHH!

WHAT?!
SOKO, ARE YOU OKAY?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
ANYTHING BELOW THIS LEVEL IS THE DEMON MASK'S TERRITORY!
THE STREAM
WHAT'S WRONG?
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
BUT IT'S PITCH BLACK. I CAN'T SEE A THING!
I'M FINE!
GOT IT! I'LL SEND A LIGHT DOWN!

I'M SENDING DOWN A ROPE
THANK GOD YOU AREN'T HURT
WRITER
AKIRA!


AKIRA... LOOK
EH?
?
SOKO...!

WHAT...?

Ao no Fuuin

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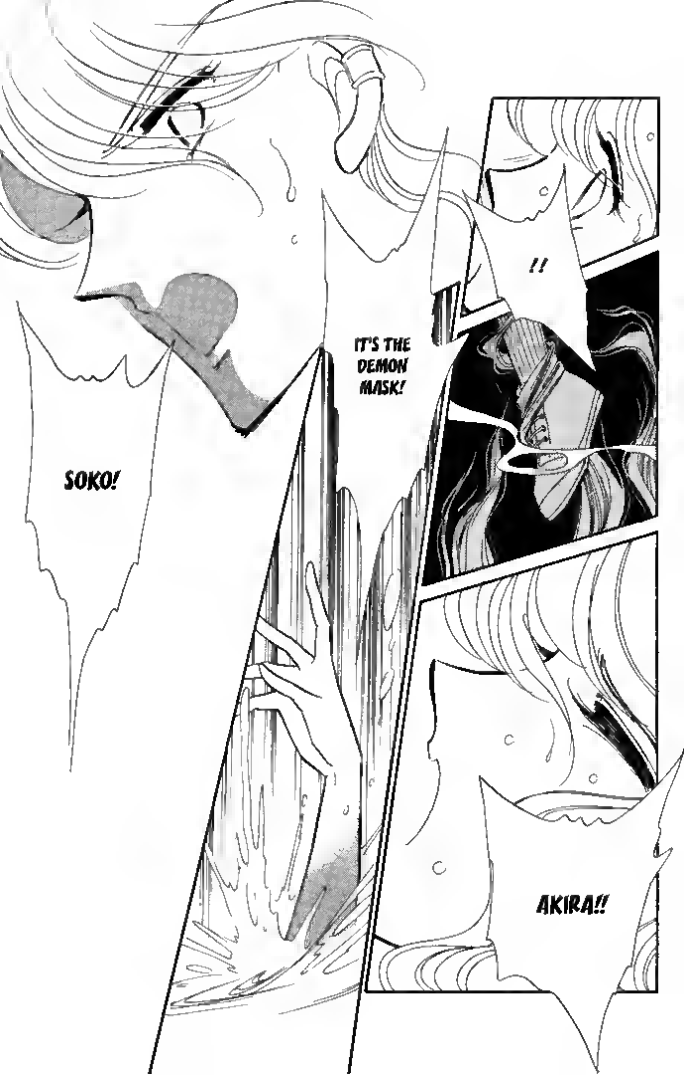
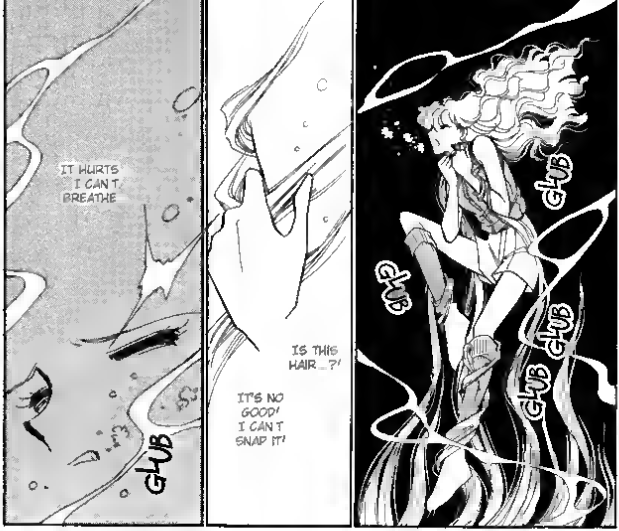
SOKO, BELOW YOU!
THERE'S SOMETHING RIGHT UNDER YOU!
EH?
!!

CLIMB UP!
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
?!
THIS PLACE
I AM THE ONE WHO PROTECTS THIS PLACE
SPEAK THE DARK INCANTATION.
WHAT IS THIS...?! I CAN HEAR IT ALL DIRECTLY IN MY MIND!
SPEAK THE DARK INCANTATION.

WAIT, DON'T TELL ME THIS IS...?!
INCANTATION?!
IF YOU CANNOT SPEAK THE INCANTATION, THEN YOU WILL BE DEEMED INTRUDERS.
AND KILLED
SWISH
?!
AHH!
AKIRA! IT'S HERE!
THIS IS—
SPLASH


!!
IT'S THE DEMON MASK!
SOKO!
AKIRA!!


IT HURTS I CAN'T BREATHE
GLUB
IS THIS HAIR...?!
IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T SNAP IT!
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB

LET ME GO, KAI!
AKIRA, YOU IDIOT! ARE YOU PLANNING TO JUMP IN?!

LET'S JUMP DOWN TO THOSE ROCKS OVER THERE!

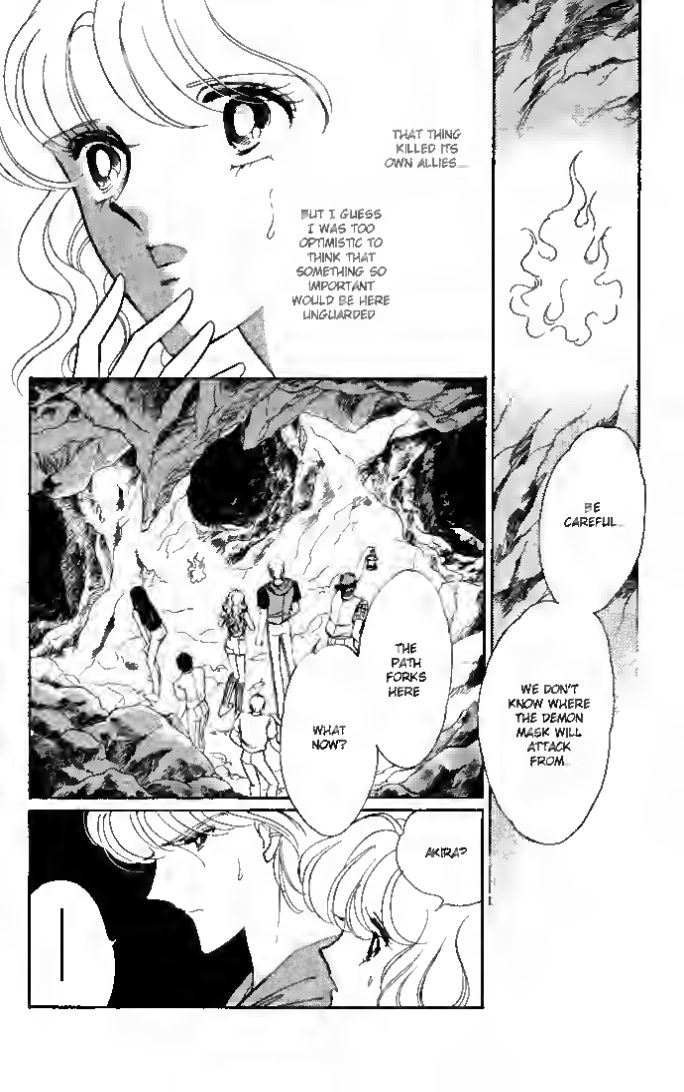
I CAN'T BREATHE!!
ZOOOOOO'
HARE
THE WATER IS SHINING BLUE?!

SOLASH
SOKO!
TAP
DID YOU JUST DO THAT?!
HUFF HUFF
YEAH
THE FLAMES JUST ERUPTED
WHAT ABOUT THE DEMON MASK?!
TAP

HEY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWO WHO FELL IN WITH YOU?!
MAYBE THERE'S AN UNDER-WATER CAVE
IT MUST HAVE ESCAPED!
SILENCE
AH!
WE-- WE'LL GET THEM OUT
I WAS HURT, SO I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO CHECK BUT THEY DIDN'T RESPOND WHEN I PULLED THEM HERE SO THEY'RE PROBABLY
I THINK THEY SUFFOCATED
HEY,
SINCE WHEN CAN SOMETHING LIKE SUFFOCATION KILL AN ONI?
THAT'S RIGHT! SO FAR, ONLY CUTTING OFF THEIR HEADS HAS KILLED THEM!
THEN HOW...?!
PULL

AHHHH!
THEIR HEADS ARE TORN HALF-WAY OFF!
LOOKS LIKE A SHARP BLADE WAS USED
NO!
FIRE COULDN'T DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT!
SOKO, DID YOUR FIRE ...?
THEN ...
THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE THE DOING OF THE DEMON MASK RIGHT?

THE DEMON MASK DID THIS...?! HOW DID IT CUT THEM LIKE A KNIFE?
I COULD ONLY SEE ITS SHADOW! JUST WHAT IS THE DEMON MASK?!
HEY, LET'S GO
WE HAVE TO RESIGN OURSELVES TO THE FACT THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PASS UNCHALLENGED, LIKE MAYUMI THOUGHT.
WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT YOU GUYS HAVE TO COME TOO
YOU CAN'T GET BACK UP BY YOURSELVES, RIGHT?


THAT THING KILLED ITS OWN ALLIES...
BUT I GUESS I WAS TOO OPTIMISTIC TO THINK THAT SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT WOULD BE HERE UNGUARDED
BE CAREFUL...
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE DEMON MASK WILL ATTACK FROM...
THE PATH FORKS HERE
WHAT NOW?
AKIRA?

GOT IT?
IF YOU HIT A DEAD END, HEAD BACK HERE. IF YOU FIND SOMETHING, SHOUT OUT TO THE REST OF US
WE'LL BREAK UP INTO GROUPS OF TWO AND CHECK THEM OUT
THREE PATHS AND SIX OF US...
YEAH, SAME HERE.
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING WITH THEM.
I'M WITH YOU, AKIRA!
GOT IT.
THEN WE'RE SET. LET'S GO, AKIRA
AH...
THEN I'LL GO WITH KA!...
...
I DID PROMISE EARLIER THAT I WOULDN'T ASK WHAT'S GOING ON WITH AKIRA AND MAYUMI...
BUT...

MAYUMI
JUST WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
PLANNING?
WHAT OUR UNCLE SAID
YOU DIDN'T TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY RIGHT?! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, GOING ON THIS TRIP WITH ME?
I'M GOING TO HAVE A CHILD. OF COURSE!
YOUR CHILD!

MAYUMI!
IT'S THE HIGHEST HONOR FOR A WOMAN OF THE FAMILY OF THE WEST TO BE THE BYAKKO'S MOTHER.
I'VE GIVEN UP ON BECOMING THE BYAKKO MYSELF,
SO INSTEAD I'LL BEAR THE NEXT BYAKKO
MAYUMI, YOU'RE MY SISTER!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
YOU'RE FORGET-TING...
WHETHER YOU CAN OR CAN'T ISN'T THE ISSUE HERE
IT'S YOUR DUTY
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS!
IF YOU CAN'T DO IT BECAUSE I'M YOUR SISTER,
THEN DON'T THINK OF ME AS YOUR SISTER
AKIRA!
WHAT'RE DOING?! BE CAREFUL!
1035

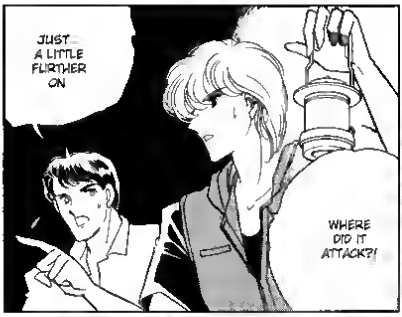
YANK
FLARE
WHAT...

SOKO?!
AKIRA?! WHAT THE HELL, THE PASSAGE-WAYS ARE CONNECTED?
HUH?
THEN THE OTHER ONE HAS TO RUN TO THE CENTER, RIGHT?
MAYUMI AND AKIRA
WERE KISSING ...?

I MUST— BE MISTAKEN
SOKO
AKIRA'S SMILING LIKE USUAL
AKIRA!!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE GOT DIFFERENT MOTHERS, THEY'RE SIBLINGS BY BLOOD

ヒヒヒヒー
THAT'S FROM THE DIRECTION THE ONI WENT!
AKIMI!!

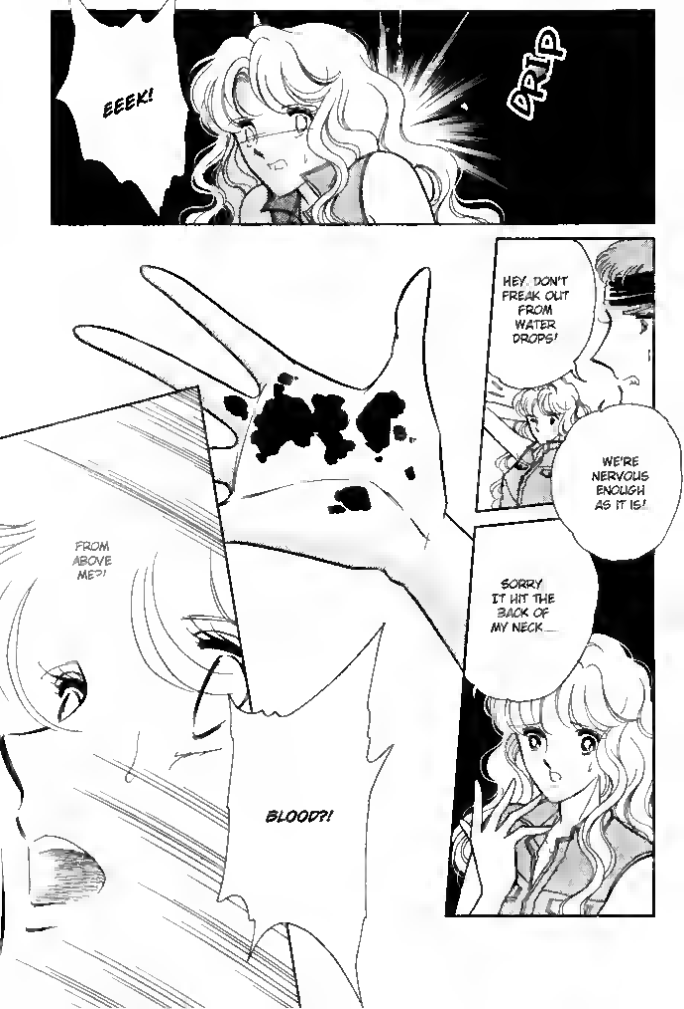
THEN... THE LIGHT BLEW OUT ...AND I DON'T KNOW!
WE WERE HEADED DOWN THE TUNNEL, WHEN HE JUST CRIED OUT AND DISAPPEARED!
I DON'T KNOW...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?!
WHAT IS IT?
IF THAT THING'S GUARDING THIS TUNNEL...
THE DEMON MASK!
THEN THIS MUST BE THE RIGHT WAY!



AKIRA AND MAYUMI — WHAT WAS THAT, BEFORE?

I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD!

WATER?
OH, THERE'S A LOT SEEPING DOWN.
PLOP
I'M FINE I JUST SLIPPED ON THE WATER.
SOKO?!
AHHH!
FUMP
I KNOW, SORRY LET'S KEEP MOVING
BE CARE-FUL
IT'LL GET YOU IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN
I JUST HAVE TO TRUST IN HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT AKIRA SAID TO TRUST MAYUMI


EEEK!
DRIP
HEY, DON'T FREAK OUT FROM WATER DROPS!
WE'RE NERVOUS ENOUGH AS IT IS!
SORRY IT HIT THE BACK OF MY NECK...
FROM ABOVE ME?!
BLOOD?!

AHHHHHH!

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLES
IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE... HIS THROAT WAS SLASHED
AND... THERE ARE PUNCTURE WOUNDS ALL OVER HIS BODY
WOUNDS FROM AN ANIMAL ATTACK ARE USUALLY BITES.
WHAT THE HELL KILLS LIKE THIS?!
OH!
?!
AKIRA, WHAT...?!

!!
A HORN?!
I BET THAT'S HOW...
THE "DEMON" MASK GOT ITS NAME.

SO THE DEMON MASK
IS A MONSTER WITH A HORN?!
EVERYONE LOOK AROUND!
THE DEMON MASK IS CLOSE!
THIS CAVERN HAS TO CONNECT WITH THE HEART OF THEIR REFUGE.
THE DEMON MASK IS CLOSE ?!

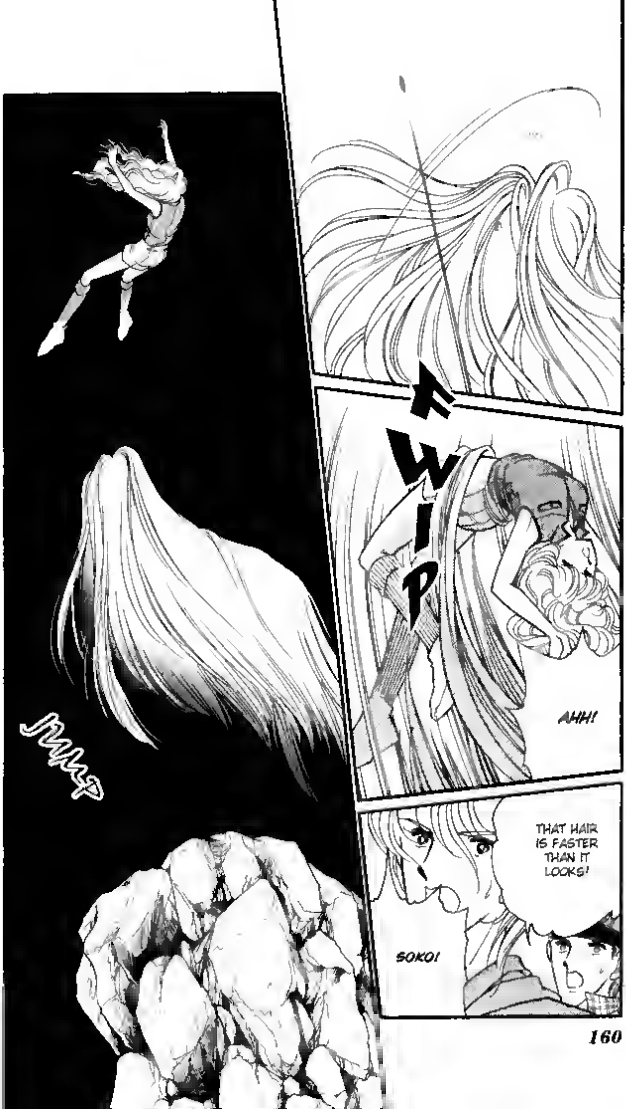
AH ...!!
SWIRL

SOKO!!
AHHHH!
WOBBLE

I TOLD YOU I WOULD KILL INTRUDERS WHO COULDN'T SPEAK THE DARK INCANTATION.
SOKO!!
THIS
IS THE DEMON MASK?!

SO THAT HAIR KILLED THEM?!
THAT'S THE DEMON MASK?!
NOT ALL OF YOU ARE ONI.
I'LL NOT ALLOW ANY OF YOU TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE.
SWIRL
SWIRL
SWIRL
?!

AHH!
SQUEEZE
IT HURTS! MY ENTIRE BODY'S BEING CRUSHED!
CRACK
IS THIS REALLY THE DEMON MASK?! WASN'T IT SUPPOSED TO HAVE A HORN?!
WHOOSH
STOP IT!!


JUMP
FWIP
AHH!
THAT HAIR IS FASTER THAN IT LOOKS!
SOKO!

THE DEMON MASK
IS A MONSTER WITH A HORN!!

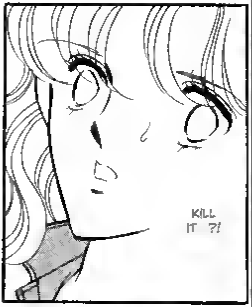
AH ...!!
SLICE
FLIP
SOKO!

CLOMP
!!

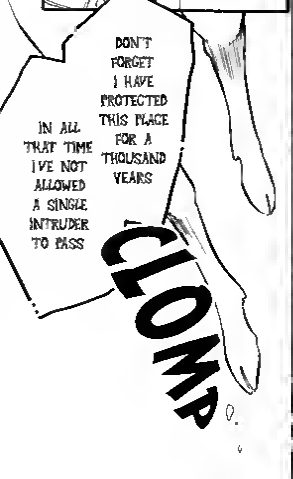
A UNICORN?!

A LONG HORN AND GOLDEN EYES.... IS THIS WHAT THE DEMON MASK REALLY LOOKS LIKE?!
A UNICORN?!

EH?!
I KNOW
SHES THE SECOND CLONE OF QUEEN RAGO
I SEE, THAT'S YOUR TRUE FORM
BUT CAN YOU HARM YOUR QUEEN? SOKO IS SOURYU
I'VE PROTECTED THIS PLACE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS
BUT I ONCE MET HER FIRST CLONE
OF COURSE, I NEVER MET QUEEN RAGO HERSELF
THEN LET ME PASS AS WELL! TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT THIS REFUGE IS!!
GUARDING IT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS...?!


KILL IT ?!

FWIP
FINE BY ME!
WE'RE COMING THROUGH!


DON'T FORGET I HAVE PROTECTED THIS PLACE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS
IN ALL THAT TIME I'VE NOT ALLOWED A SINGLE INTRUDER TO PASS
CLOMP

MY ONE DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE REFUGE
I'VE NO NEED TO OBEY THE SOURYU
IF YOU WISH TO OPEN THE CENTER, THEN YOU MUST EITHER KNOW THE INCANTATION OR KILL ME.

SLAM
JUMP
OH!!
AHH!

AHHH!
STOMP
MAYUMI!
AHHH!
MAYUMI!
SLASH

YANK
MAYUMI?!
SLASH
AH ..!
SOKO!
!!
CRUMBLE

SOKO!
AHHHHHH!
OH!!
AH!
SFX: CRASH

S— SURE!
KAI! TOSS ME YOUR WHIP!
GRAB
CLOMP
SWISH

ITS HORN...
KICK
JUMP
AHH!
BREAK OFF ITS HORN!!

UGH...
I WAS AGAINST LETTING YOU LIVE
I'M NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE.
MAYUMI?!
...I KNOW. LET'S GET BACK UP THERE
CONSIDERING EVERYTHING, I FIGURE YOU SHOULD KNOW WHY I CAME ALONG WITH YOU GUYS
YOU SAW AKIRA AND I KISSING BEFORE RIGHT?
I KNOW THAT, SO WHY WOULD YOU HAVE COME ON THIS TRIP WITH ME?

ON MY UNCLE'S ORDERS, I CAME ALONG...
TO SLEEP WITH AKIRA AND BEAR HIS CHILD.
AKIRA'S... CHILD...?!
DOES AKIRA... KNOW ABOUT THIS?

AKIRA'S THE BYAKKO, HE CAN'T REFUSE.
I CAN'T SPEAK...
SINCE I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO GET IN AKIRA'S WAY,
IF I WERE HUMAN, I'D SCREAM OUT
"NO!" I'D SAY "LOVE ME ALONE!"
I WANT TO BE HUMAN AGAIN!!

SOKO, WATCH OUT!!
JUMP
AHHH!
I WANT
TO BE HUMAN AGAIN!!

GYAH!
FLARE
OPEN THE DOOR TO THE REFUGE, DEMON MASK!
LET US IN!

ROLL
ROLL
-IIGG
ROLL
IT'S NOTHING. THE HORN, GOT IT!
WIPE
SOKO?
SOKO, THE HORN! GO AFTER ITS HORN!
AMAZING
D
A
S
H
SOKO!
IF I CAN DESTROY THE KIMON, I'LL BE ABLE TO JUMP INTO AKIRA'S ARMS.
I'LL BECOME HUMAN

SLAM
FOR THAT I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO DEFEAT THE DEMON MASK!
DON'T BE RECKLESS! THAT ISN'T ANY ORDINARY BEAST!
THUD
I'M FINE!
I'LL CATCH THAT THING FOR SURE!
SOKO? CALM DOWN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH INTO IT.

I WILL DEFEAT THE DEMON MASK!
JUMP
STAB
NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING?!
SOKO, WAIT!

SOKO!

GOT YOU, DEMON MASK
NOW... OPEN THE DOOR.
CRUNCH
IF YOU DON'T I'LL... BREAK OFF YOUR HORN
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, SOKO

I MUST CONGRATULATE YOU...
ON GETTING THIS FAR
TAKA...O!!

Ao no Fuuin

"Blue Seal"

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